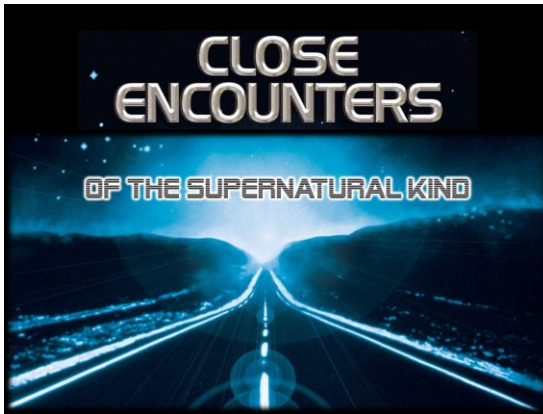


Close Encounters of the Supernatural Kind

Part 4: A Poolside Miracle



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A Poolside Miracle

An Eyewitness Account ...

Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for a feast of the Jews. Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. Here a great number of disabled people used to lie – the blind, the lame, the paralyzed.

One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, He asked him, "Do you want to get well?"

"Sir," the invalid replied, "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me."

Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk."

At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked.

(John 5: 1-9)

Two Questions ...

- **What is your handicap?**
- **Do you want to get well?**

Two Lessons ...

Lesson 1: Get up and _____

Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk."
(John 5:8)

Take a small step every day. Create a chain of small steps – and don't break the chain. All of the small improvements will accumulate into large improvements, because daily action provides "compounding interest."

You often hear, "Be bold! Take a leap!"
Sometimes you should.
Other times, there's a better idea.
Take a step.

-Harry Beckwith

Lesson 2: Trust God to _____

The invalid replied, "But I have no one to put me in the pool..."
(John 5: 7)

The paralyzed man thought, "The only way I can be happy, healthy, and whole is to get in that pool." But Jesus directed him in an entirely different direction. He said, "Get up and walk away from the pool."

Similarly, God may send us in a direction we do not want to go. We need to understand that just as God supernaturally opens doors for us, sometimes God supernaturally closes doors. And when God closes a door, it's always because He has something better for us.

***Out of our greatest rejection
comes our greatest direction.***